

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LISBON 04706 140705Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 /025 W

----- 003648

P R 131635Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 7824

AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS LISBON 4706

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS

USIA WASHDC FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO, AO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. EXECUTION OF MERCENARIES IN ANGOLA: PORTUGUESE MEDIA CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE EXECUTION DECISION BY AGOSTINHO NETO. INDEPENDENT "JORNAL NOVO" IN FRONT-PAGE JULY 12 EDITORIAL RECALLED HOW MONTHS AGO ALMOST ALL LISBON NEWSPAPERS BANNER-HEADLINED EXECUTION OF ACCUSED SPANISH TERRORISTS WITH "FRANCO: ASSASSIN." "JORNAL NOVO" SAID "...NET SUFFERED FROM THE SAME MORAL TURPITUDE WHICH FRANCO SUFFERED FROM. BOTH USED THE SAME ILLEGAL MEANS TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES IN AN AUTOCRATIC KIND OF POWER." IN A SIMILAR VEIN, JULY 12 EDITORIAL BROADCAST ON CATHOLIC CHURCH'S RADIO RENASCENCA NETWORK NOTED THAT EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN LAST AUTUMN WERE EXCUSE FOR EXCESSES OF VIOLENCE IN LISBON (I.E., BURNING AND SACKING OF SPANISH EMBASSY), BUT THAT THOSE WHO REACTED SO STRONGLY TO THE SPANISH INCIDENT ARE STRANGELY SILENT ABOUT THE EXECUTIONS IN ANGOLA. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN JULY 12 CENTER-LEFT "A CAPITAL" WAS HEADLINED "TRAGEDY IN LUANDA" AND SAID THERE WAS NOT THE "SLIGHTEST JUSTIFICATION" FOR THE EXECUTION. EXECUTED MERCENARIES, EDITORIAL SAID, "HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LISBON 04706 140705Z

BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO SYMBOLS OF A COLLECTIVE TRAGEDY: THE

ABSURD TRAGEDY OF ANGOLA'S PSEUDO-INDEPENDENCE". "CAPITAL" CRITICIZED "THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF BETRAYING THE NOBLE CAUSE OF ANGOLAN FREEDOM IN THE SERVICE OF RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, THUS PUTTING THE PEOPLE IN BONDAGE AGAIN AND SHAMING THE LAND WITH THE CHAINS AND BOOTS OF HOLY RUSSIA'S IMPERIAL COLONIALISM AND ITS OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED "MERCENARIES" -- THE SOLDIERS OF CUBA". SIMILARLY, COMMENTARY IN JULY 13 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CONDEMNED NETO GOVERNMENT FOR KILLING FOUR MERCENARIES WHEN "EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THAT MOVEMENT (MPLA) ALSO USED THE SERVICES OF MERCENARIES -- AND HOW* -- AGAINST ITS RIVALS, NOT FOR THE FREEDOM OF ANGOLA BUT FOR IDEOLOGICAL SUPREMACY."

2. U.S. POLITICS: COLUMN SIGNED BY "MONITOR" IN JULY 13 "O SEculo" ANALYSED CARTER FOREIGN-POLICY STANCE, CONCLUDING: "JIMMY CARTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOW THAT HE IS DIRECTLY ALIGNED WITH THE LIBERAL WING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THIS MEANS THAT HE WILL NOT DISAGREE WITH THE MOST PROGRESSIVE ASPECTS OF HENRY KISSINGER'S POLICIES, EVEN THOUGH HE (CARTER) DOES NOT PUBLICIZE THE FACT." DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IS RECEIVING STRAIGHTFORWARD, PROMINENT NEWSPLAY.

3. "FRIENDSHIP" VISIT TO CHINA: MEDIA REACTION GAVE MODERATE PLAY TO JULY 12 DEPARTURE FOR MAINLAND CHINA BY SIX-PERSON DELEGATION SPONSORED BY PORTUGAL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. PRESS REPORTED THAT DELEGATION WILL SPEND THREE WEEKS IN CHINA, "WITH NO CONTACTS WHATEVER PLANNED WITH THE PEKING GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH EVENTUALLY INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS ARE EXPECTED BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVES AND CHINESE AUTHORITIES".

4. FOR IBS/PE: ORIGINAL PORTUGUESE FROM SOME OF ABOVE: "JORNAL NOVO": "... A AUTORIDADE MORAL QUE FALTAVA A FRANCO E EXACTAMENTE A MESMA QUE HOJE FALTA A NETO. AMBOS UTILIZARAM UM MEIO ILEGITIMO PARA ASSEGURAREM EM SEU FAVOR A MANUTENCAO DO PODER AUTOCRATICAMENTE EXERCIDO..." "A CAPITAL": "NEN A LUZ DO DIREITO, NEM SEQUER DE INTERESSE POLITICO, A CONDENACAO E EXECUCAO DOS MERCENARIOS EM ANGOLA ENCONTRA SOMBRA DE JUSTIFICACAO OU FUNDAMENTO. PELO CONTRARIO, E UM ACTO DE ODIO... ASSASSINADOS, OS MERCENARIOS DE ANGOLA ADQUIRIRAM DESDE LOGO UMA GRANDEZA QUE NAO TINHAM. PEOES IRRESPONSAVEIS DUMA CRISE DA HISTORIA E DUM DERRUBE SUBITO DE EQUILIBRIOS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LISBON 04706 140705Z

PROFUNDAMENTE INJUSTOS, EI-LOS TRANSFORMADOS EM SIMBOLOS DUMA TRAGEDIA COLECTIVA: A ABSURDA TRAGEDIA DA PSEUDO-INDEPENDENCIA DE ANGOLA. A IRRESPONSABILIDADE COM QUE AO SERVICO DO INTERESSE INTERNACIONAL DO IMPERIALISMO RUSSO SE TRAIU A CAUSA NOBRE DA LIBERTACAO DE ANGOLA, PARA DE NOVO ATAR AS GENTES E E HUMILHAR A TERRA COM AS CADEIAS E AS BOTAS DO COLONIALISMO IMPERIAL DA SANTA RUSSIA E DOS SEUS 'MERCENARIOS' OFICIALMENTE ACEITES -- OS SOLDADOS DE CUBA....".

JORDAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MERCENARIES, EXECUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON04706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-0929
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760765/aaaacets.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, PO, AO, (NETO, AGOSTINHO)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006